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NEWSLETTER

MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS • HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25755 • October 21, 1993

MU's academic rating high, cost low

Marshall University ranks high in academic reputation and low in cost according to U.S. News & World Report's annual "America's Best Colleges" ratings.

The current edition (October 1993) lists Marshall as 18th among 147 regional universities in the South in terms of academic reputation and 115th in per-student spending. Last year, Marshall was ranked 23rd in academic reputation.

"It is a real tribute to the institution and the people who work here," Marshall President J. Wade Gilley said of the report. The publication's ranking of academic reputation is based on the opinions of college presidents, deans and admission directors polled by U.S. News & World Report.

"Obviously, we're very pleased to enjoy such a high academic reputation despite a relatively low level of funding," Gilley said. "It's apparent we're succeeding in our objective of keeping student costs as low as possible while

maintaining high quality in our academic programs."

Marshall had the lowest cost among the top 25 percent of the southern regional schools. "Controlling administrative costs is the key to keeping instructional costs at a reasonable level," Gilley said. "At Marshall, we've streamlined administration three times in the past two years in order to funnel more money into academics while keeping fee increases relatively low."

Several other schools associated with the Southern Conference joined Marshall in receiving high rankings for academic reputation including The Citadel, Appalachian State, Davidson, Furman, Virginia Military Institute, East Tennessee State, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and Georgia Southern.

"We're in good company in our conference," Gilley commented.

He said Marshall is becoming better known nationally each year through its marketing strategies, its successful alumni and other factors. "And winning the national NCAA 1-AA football championship before a national television audience last year didn't hurt," he added.

Ranked 1, 2 and 3 among the regional universities in the South were Wake Forest, Richmond and Berea.

Journalism alumni to honor veteran newsmen

Two veteran newsmen will be honored at the annual awards dinner of the Marshall University School of Journalism Alumni Association Friday, Oct. 22.

James E. Casto of Huntington, president of the journalism alumni group, said Distinguished Alumni Awards will be presented to photographer Maurice Kaplan of Huntington and sportswriter George Rorrer of Louisville.

The event will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Huntington with a reception at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m. Reservations, at \$15 each, may be made with Casto at the Huntington Herald-Dispatch, 526-2796, or Jane Behrman in Marshall's W. Page Pitt School of Journalism and Mass Communications, 696-2360.

Kaplan, who retired from the Huntington Herald-Dispatch Dec. 31, 1984, after a 47-year career as a photo-journalist, has served since then as a volunteer teacher and adviser in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

He served a one-year apprenticeship at age 15 with Thomas Studios of Huntington, then joined the Huntington newspapers as a staff photographer the following year, 1938. He became chief photographer of the Herald-Dispatch, the Advertiser and the Herald-Advertiser in 1952 and was made director of photography in 1975.

His newspaper career was interrupted by World War II when he served from 1942 to 1945 as a U.S. Army combat photographer in Africa, Italy, Sardinia and Corsica. He was wounded in action and earned the Bronze Star.

(Continued on page 2)

Writers Series opens

John Van Kirk, a writer and assistant professor of English at Marshall University, will read from his work on Monday, Oct. 25, at 8 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center Alumni Lounge.

Van Kirk received the prestigious O. Henry Award for his short story, "Newark Job," and has been awarded residencies at several artists' colonies including the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and the Ucross Foundation.

His stories have been published in such journals as The Hudson Review and Paragraph and his non-fiction articles have been published in the New York Times Magazine and other periodicals.

Van Kirk attended Webster College in St. Louis, Mo., and the University of Maryland, where he also taught writing. A nine-year veteran of the U.S. Navy, he served as a helicopter pilot aboard the USS John F. Kennedy.

He has traveled extensively and has sailed the Aegean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean in a 38-foot sailboat.

His presentation is the first program of the year for Marshall University's Visiting Writers Series which is sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and the Department of English.

The program will be open to the public free of charge. To obtain further details contact Art Stringer in the Marshall University Department of English, 696-2403.

Two veteran newsmen will be honored

(Continued from page 1)

Kaplan attended Marshall from 1939 to 1942 and resumed his studies following the war, graduating in 1946. He has earned numerous photography awards and was nominated twice for the Pulitzer Prize. He is married to the former Marguerite Hicks and they have three children and five grandchildren.

Rorrer, a Beckley native, attended Beckley College for two years, moving to Marshall in 1952. He began his career with the Huntington newspapers on a part-time basis as a student and was employed as a Herald Dispatch sportswriter in 1953.

After receiving his Marshall degree in 1954, he served

as a Marine Corps officer until 1958 when he rejoined the Herald-Dispatch. He earned his master's degree from Marshall in 1962. Rorrer retired from the Marine Corps reserve in 1978 as a lieutenant colonel.

He was named sports editor of the Herald-Dispatch in 1962 and joined the Louisville Courier-Journal in 1970. Two years later he became director of athletic public relations for the University of Louisville, but returned to the Courier-Journal in 1973 to cover professional sports teams including the Kentucky Colonels, the Cincinnati Bengals and Reds, the Louisville Redbirds and the Indianapolis Colts. He also covers University of Kentucky sports.

Rorrer is the father of five and has 10 grandchildren.

Dr. Hoak injured, wife killed in car accident

Dorothy J. Hoak, 75, of Huntington was killed and her husband, Dr. Eugene Q. Hoak, a retired Marshall University professor of speech, was critically injured in a two-vehicle accident Saturday, Oct. 16, near Dayton, Ohio.

Mrs. Hoak was killed when a car driven by her husband was hit by a truck at approximately 11:05 a.m. Saturday in Washington Township.

Dr. Hoak was taken to Kettering Medical Center in Dayton where he was listed in critical but stable condition in the intensive care unit.

Mrs. Hoak, who received a B.S. degree from Marshall, was an elder of the First Presbyterian Church in Huntington, a member of the Woman's Club of Huntington and a docent at the Huntington Museum of Art. She was past president of the P.E.O. Chapter M and past president of the West Virginia Dental Auxiliary. She also was a founding and charter member of the Junior Department of the Woman's Club of Huntington.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, Oct. 20, at First Presbyterian Church in Huntington.

Blood drive scheduled

The Red Cross will hold a blood drive at Marshall University on Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 27-28, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the W. Don Morris Room in Memorial Student Center.

A goal of 250 units has been set for the two-day blood drive. All Marshall University faculty, staff and students are urged to participate in the blood drive.

Excused absences . . .

Absences have been excused by the respective college deans for the following:

Nov. 3-6--Denton Anderson, Carl Upright.

Nov. 11-14--Sherri Thomas, Cameron Smith.

WVLA honors Fidler

Josephine Fidler, director of libraries at Marshall University, has been presented the Dora Ruth Parks Award by the West Virginia Library Association.

The award, the highest honor bestowed by the WVLA, was presented to Fidler during the association's annual meeting held Oct. 14-16 in Huntington.

Named for a former director of the West Virginia Library Commission, the award is presented on the basis of long and distinguished service to West Virginia libraries, the WVLA and librarianship.

Fidler began her career as a high school librarian in Randolph County, served as assistant librarian at Glenville State College and head librarian at Alderson-Broadbent College.

She has served in a variety of positions at Marshall since joining the faculty in 1962 as an instructor in library science, including assistant cataloger, bibliographer and acquisitions librarian. She was named interim director of libraries at Marshall in 1988 and director of libraries in 1989.

Fidler has been involved in numerous community and professional organizations. She served as WVLA president in 1972-73 and was the recipient of the WVLA Outstanding Service Award in 1976.

She presently serves as chair of the Auditing Committee and a member of the board of trustees of the Pennsylvania Regional Library Center.

WVU waivers available

Application forms for West Virginia University tuition waivers for the 1994 spring term are available in the Marshall University Graduate School Office, according to Dr. Leonard Deutsch, Graduate School dean.

Full-time faculty and staff members are eligible for waivers, with a maximum award of six credit hours.

Applications will be due in the MU Graduate School Office by Wednesday, Nov. 3.

To obtain further details contact the Marshall University Graduate School Office, 696-2816.

Dance festival to award scholarships

The Dance segment in Marshall University's Department of Theatre/Dance and Dance West Virginia will co-sponsor the annual Dance Mini-Festival at Marshall University on Sunday, Oct. 24, according to Dr. Mary Marshall, associate professor of dance and festival coordinator.

Registration will begin promptly at 8 a.m. on Level C (Rear) in Henderson Center. All participants must preregister for placement in the appropriate classes.

The daylong festival will feature classes for dance students and teachers from private studios and public school/university dance curricula throughout West Virginia and bordering states.

Classes in intermediate and advanced ballet, modern dance and jazz dance will be taught by such distinguished faculty as Duncan Noble (ballet) and Richard Gain

(modern dance) from the North Carolina School of the Arts and Douglas Bentz (jazz) and Judith Leifer (modern dance) from Point Park College, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children's classes in ballet and jazz dance will be taught by Heather Rose of Beckley and Janis Gunnoe of Princeton.

A unique feature of the festival is the awarding of eight scholarships for summer study at the North Carolina School of the Arts and Point Park College to talented West Virginia high school dance students selected through an audition process during the festival.

Winners of 1993 summer scholarships during last year's festival were Candace Crouse of Morgantown, Ashley Mahood of Vienna, Shannon Maxwell of Morgantown and Amber Singh of Beckley to the North Carolina School of the Arts and Anne Cathey of Parkersburg, Jennifer Hosey of Parkersburg, Samatha Seaton of Huntington and Jennifer Tucker of Cedar Grove to Point Park College. Traci Jo Carpenter of Wurtland, Ky., and Carey Chandler of Statts Mills were selected as alternates.

To obtain further details contact Ella Hay of Dance West Virginia, 429-2302, or Dr. Marshall and the MU Department of Theatre/Dance, 696-2513

Senate meeting planned

Marshall University's Faculty Senate will meet Thursday, Oct. 28, at 4 p.m. in the lounge on the eighth floor of Smith Hall.

The agenda will include: approval of minutes of 9/30/93; announcements; State of the Library Address by Josephine Fidler; report of the president; standing committee recommendations concerning the 1993-94 library budget, the 1994-95 university calendar, course deletions and additions, the 1993-94 Athletic Department budget, revised promotion/tenure dates, procedures for the selection, role and evaluation of departmental chairs and the availability of university offices to receive telephone calls; ACF report and agenda requests for future meetings.

Halloween party set

The Marshall University Residence Hall Association and staff of Laidley Hall invite all faculty and staff members to bring their children age 12 and under to a Halloween party and door-to-door trick-or-treat activity on Sunday, Oct. 31, from 5 to 7 p.m. in Laidley Hall located at the corner of Third Avenue and 18th Street opposite Gullickson Hall.

Parking will be available on 18th Street, according to Linda P. Rowe, assistant director of residence services. Children should wear a costume. Reservations are not required.

To obtain further details contact T.J. Adkins, resident adviser, 696-3359.

Role of advisers will be discussed at teleconference

A teleconference titled "Graduate School: Role of the Adviser" will be broadcast at Marshall University on Thursday, Oct. 28, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Shawkey Room in Memorial Student Center.

The program will be open free of charge. Dr. Leonard Deutsch, dean of the MU Graduate School, said all graduate advisers are urged to attend.

Nursing conference held

Marshall University's School of Nursing and the Nu Alpha chapter of Sigma Theta Tau nursing honor society, sponsored by the School of Nursing, were contributing sponsors of the second National Nursing Research Conference titled "Improving Patient Outcomes Through Collaborative Research" held Sept. 30-Oct. 2 in Charleston.

Dr. Jane C. Fotos, professor of nursing at Marshall, said university faculty members were active in planning and coordinating the conference which was attended by more than 250 nurse researchers from throughout the United States and Canada.

Faculty members from Marshall's School of Nursing who served on the Conference Planning Committee were Dr. Giovanna Morton, professor, and Jeanne DeVos, associate professor. Dr. Barbara Davis, associate professor, and Dr. Judith Sortet, professor, served on the Abstract Review Committee.

Several Marshall University School of Nursing faculty members made presentations during the conference.

Fotos presented results of an ongoing School of Nursing faculty group research project titled "Nursing Students' Attitudes About Appalachian Culture."

Davis presented results of her study titled "Consumer Satisfaction with Emergency Department Nursing Care: Instrument Development and Refinement." Davis and Jane Rogers, associate professor of nursing, made a poster presentation on their research on "Hyperthermia Risk Warnings to Pregnant Women."

Dr. Diana Stotts, professor of nursing, and Sortet were preconference facilitators of a workshop titled "How to Critique Research Presentations and Apply Their Findings in Practice."

Meet-the-Scholars nominations sought

The Marshall University Meet-the-Scholars Program Committee is currently accepting nominations for the next award, according to Dr. Kenneth E. Guyer, chairman of the committee.

An ongoing project, the program is designed to bring distinguished Marshall faculty scholars together with citizens of the Tri-State region. It is meant to acquaint the community with the breadth and depth of academic expertise available on the Marshall campus.

The award is presented each semester to an outstanding Marshall scholar. The following procedures and criteria will be used by the program committee in selecting award recipients.

I. General Guidelines:

Announcement of the schedule and criteria for selection will be published in the *Marshall University Newsletter*.

Nominations may be made in writing by any faculty member and are to be submitted to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs or the chairman of the program committee by the announced deadline. Members of the committee may also nominate.

Nominations should include the following credentials: **A current vita, brief statement of current research or artistic activity, and one supporting letter from another faculty member in the case of self-nomination.**

After nominations are submitted and the closing date for nominations has occurred, the committee will reduce the nominations to five, with no more than two people per college or school. The committee may elect in the final stages of deliberation to invite nominees to discuss informally their research or artistic activity.

The committee will then reduce the nominations to two people from whom the award recipient will be selected.

All nominees will be kept informed of their status as the deliberations proceed. Any member of the committee may be nominated for this award, but in the event this occurs, the member under consideration will not participate in the committee's deliberations for that semester.

II. Specific Criteria:

The following criteria will be applied in the selection of the award recipient:

A. General:

1. The criteria will be weighed in accordance with

the professional standards in the particular field.

2. During the course of its deliberations the committee may elect to consult with recognized experts in the nominee's field.

3. While teaching as a criterion will not be considered for this award, the percentage of time that the nominee spends teaching may be a relevant factor because time left for research/artistic activity may be affected.

4. While the committee will strive to adhere to its stated standards, it may have to consider other factors and exceptions as particular cases arise.

B. Research Criteria:

Specific activities to be considered include: publications--peer-review papers, articles and books; regional, national and international meetings--invited papers and papers presented will carry the most weight, but the chairing of sessions and attendance also are worth noting; professional awards; patents; grants--dollar amounts will be weighed according to the field.

C. Artistic Criteria:

Specific activities to be considered include: composition--literary, musical, choreographic, theatrical and visual arts; performance; directing or conducting; production; design.

Artistic criteria include: publications, exhibitions, performances, broadcasts, published reviews, public and professional recognition, juried competitions, professional awards, fellowships, grants and commissions (with the understanding that these may well be in smaller dollar amounts than those in the sciences).

The deadline for nominations and applications for the fall award will be Friday, Nov. 5, 1993. Award recipients receive a special plaque and a \$1,000 cash award from the Marshall University Foundation to be presented at a special evening reception at a date to be announced.

All prospective applicants and nominees are reminded that the selection process may involve an interview to be conducted following nominations.

Persons who have already submitted nominations or applications should check with Dr. Guyer concerning completeness of the written material.

CE courses scheduled

Marshall University's Community and Technical College will sponsor seven additional continuing education/community service courses during the remainder of the fall semester, according to Richard Hensley, director of continuing education at Marshall.

Hensley said classes will be diverse enough to appeal to a wide variety of needs and interests. Classes will not be held Nov. 22-23.

The schedule includes the following:

-- **"Basic Upholstery"** on Tuesdays through Dec. 14, 6 to 9 p.m. in Sorrell Annex, \$89.

-- **"Communications and Public Speaking"** on Mondays from Nov. 1 through Dec. 6, 6 to 8 p.m. in Smith Hall Room 108, \$54.

-- **"Basic ICD-9 and CPT4 Coding"** (for medical offices and hospitals) on Tuesdays from Oct. 26 through Dec. 7, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Harris Hall Room 446, \$69.

-- **"Human Resource Management"** on Mondays from Oct. 25 through Dec. 6, 6 to 8 p.m. in Smith Hall Room 232, \$60.

-- **"Time Management"** on Tuesdays from Oct. 26 through Dec. 7, 6 to 8 p.m. in Smith Hall Room 409, \$60.

-- **"Sign Language"** on Mondays from Oct. 25 through Dec. 6, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Smith Hall Room 227, \$48.

-- **"Speedwriting"** on Tuesdays from Oct. 26 through Nov. 30, 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. in Corbly Hall Room 433, \$54.

There will be a 10 percent discount for persons enrolling in more than one course.

Enrollment will be limited. Continuing education units will be awarded for participation in the courses.

Hensley said the Continuing Education Office also can develop specialized programs in subjects such as computer skills, time management and total quality management for businesses and organizations.

To register or obtain further details about the programs contact the Marshall University Community and Technical College Division of Continuing Education, 696-3113.

Polan to discuss films

Filmmaker Lois Anne Polan will present and discuss a selection of her films and her experiences working in the Hollywood film industry on Friday, Nov. 5, at 7:30 p.m. in Smith Hall Room 154.

The program, sponsored by the Birke Art Gallery, will be open to the public free of charge.

Thesis to be defended

Capt. Thomas D. McCollum, a candidate for the master of arts in journalism and mass communications at Marshall University, will defend his thesis, "A Survey of the Roles and Functions of Armed Forces Radio and Television Service," on Monday, Oct. 25, at 1 p.m. in Smith Hall Room 332.

The public is invited to attend, according to Dr. Hal Shaver, director of the MU School of Journalism and Mass Communications.



HONORING SHONEY'S FOUNDER

Dr. Edward G. "Ned" Boehm Jr., Marshall vice president for institutional advancement, presents a certificate of appreciation to Alex Schoenbaum, founder of the Shoney's restaurant chain. Schoenbaum returned to Huntington, his boyhood hometown, as part of Shoney's Founder's Week. The national franchise began in West Virginia, with the original Shoney's restaurant located in Charleston. The chain now has 900 Shoney's restaurants in 31 states.

Fellowships available

The Arlen G. and Louise Stone Swiger Doctoral Fellowship and the W.E.B. DuBois Fellowship for African American Graduate and Professional Students are available through West Virginia University for the 1994-95 academic year.

The Swiger Fellowship provides a 12-month stipend of \$12,000 and is open to doctoral students in all fields.

The DuBois Fellowship provides a nine-month stipend of \$10,000 plus tuition and fees for the academic year.

Applicants must be recommended by the department at WVU in which they intend to enroll. To obtain further details contact the Marshall University Graduate School Office, Old Main Room 113.

Subscription given to library

Dr. Robert Barnett, professor in the Division of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, has presented a gift subscription to the Journal of Sport History to Marshall's James E. Morrow Library, according to Josephine Fidler, director of libraries.

The journal, published by the North American Society of Sport History, seeks to promote the study of all aspects of the history of sport.

MU Newsletter deadline

Items for the Marshall University Newsletter must be submitted to the University Relations Office by 10 a.m. Tuesday in order to be published the following Thursday. Lengthy items should be submitted as early as possible to ensure publication.

Marshall faculty and staff achievements

SANDEE LLOYD, secretary in the English Department, attended the weeklong MacAcademy held in Cincinnati. She attended seminars on desktop publishing, graphics, repairs, networks and other topics.

The faculty of the College of Science have elected Dr. JEFFREY MAY to a three-year term on the College Curriculum Committee and Dr. ALAN HORWITZ to a two-year term on the committee, according to Dr. E.S. HAN-RAHAN, dean of the college.

SHARLA MEADE, coordinator of substance abuse education programs, has been elected secretary of the West Virginia Collegiate Drug and Alcohol Consortium for 1993-94. She also was elected secretary to the West Virginia Counseling Association for 1994-95.

Dr. MAURICE A. MUFSON, professor and chairman of the Department of Medicine, recently had several articles published. "Antibody to capsular polysaccharides of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*: Prevalence, persistence and response to revaccination" was published in *Clinical Infectious Diseases* (17, 1: 66-73, 1993). Co-authors (Mufson's collaborators at Baylor University's School of Medicine) were D.M. Musher, J.E. Groover, J.M. Rowland, D.A. Watson, J.B. Struewing and R.E. Baughn. "Antibody response of children to the C-terminal peptide of the SH protein of respiratory syncytial virus and the immunological characterization of this protein" was published in the *Journal of Medical Virology* (40, 2: 112-120, 1993). Co-authors (Mufson's collaborators at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden) were B. Akerlind-Stopner, A. Hu, G. Utter and E. Norrby. "Deaths in bacteremic pneumococcal pneumonia: A comparison of two populations-Huntington, W.Va., and Stockholm, Sweden" was published in *Chest* (103, 3: 710-716, 1993). Co-authors (Mufson's collaborators at the Danderyd Hospital and the Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm) were A. Ortqvist, M. Kalin and I. Julander. "Shedding of infectious virus and virus antigen during acute

infection with respiratory syncytial virus" was published in the *Journal of Medical Virology* (38, 2: 111-116, 1992). Co-authors (Mufson's collaborators at the University of Turku, Finland) were M. Waris, O. Meurman, O. Ruuskanen and P. Halonen. "Identification of subgroups of bovine respiratory syncytial virus" was published in the *Journal of Clinical Microbiology* (30, 5: 1120-1126, 1992). Co-authors included Dr. G.L. McKAY, a resident physician in the Internal Medicine Residency at Marshall; R.J. STANEK, a research assistant at Marshall, and J.C. Baker, E.G. Wilson, W. J. Underwood and L.F. Velicer, Mufson's collaborators at Michigan State University.

Dr. KAREN SIMPKINS, associate professor, and MAHDAN DIWAN, graduate student, in the Department of Sociology/Anthropology attended the annual meeting of the Anthropologists and Sociologists of Kentucky held Oct. 8-9 at Pikeville. The dual foci of the meeting was Appalachian cultures and criminal justice.

Dr. JOHN L. HUBBARD, professor of chemistry, attended the 206th national meeting of the American Chemical Society held Aug. 20-27 in Chicago.

Dr. SUSAN C. POWER, assistant professor of art, recently completed research on Hopewellian Indian Art at the Field Museum in Chicago. The research was funded by a Marshall University Summer Research Grant. LINDA ANDERSON, graduate student in art education, assisted in the research and will return as an intern in November 1993 and July 1994.

The 14th annual conference of the West Virginia Sociological Association was held on Oct. 7-8 at Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, W. Va. The theme of the conference was "The Status of Higher Education in West Virginia: Preparing the State for the 21st Century." The following professors from the Sociology/Anthropology Department attended: KENNETH AMBROSE, AHMAD KHALILI, DAN SHOPE and SUSAN WEAVER. Graduate students from Marshall attending the conference were: RICHARD BUTLER, JENNIFER HOLLEY, CHRISTOPHER LYONS, CHRISTOPHER MARSH, JENNIFER STOCK and ROBERT WEBB.

Dr. SUSAN C. POWER, assistant professor of art, has been elected president of the West Virginia Art Education Association for 1994-95. During the recent West Virginia Art Education Association State Conference held in Charleston, she received the 1993 Outstanding Art Educator Award in Higher Education for West Virginia and presented a workshop titled "Painting on Silk."

Internships available

Nominations for the Presidential Management Internship program must be submitted to the Marshall University Graduate School Office by Nov. 19, according to Dr. Leonard Deutsch, graduate school dean.

The PMI is an entry-level career development and training program designed to attract outstanding graduate degree recipients to public service. Four hundred internships will be awarded in 1994. Candidates must be nominated by their institutions.

Starting salaries for interns will be \$27,789 and includes eligibility for federal benefits. Second-year interns may earn up to \$33,623. Upon completion of the program, interns are eligible for conversion to career status at \$40,298.

To obtain further details contact the Placement Services Office, 696-2370, or the Graduate School Office, 696-6606.

Letter of appreciation

Dear Marshall Faculty and Staff:

Thank you for your kindness during my illness. Your thoughtfulness is most appreciated.

Sincerely,
Tulia Gomez-Avila